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11. (Amended) A method of controlling the shutdown of an internal combustion engine, comprising:

receiving an ignition status indicative of a request to shutdown the internal combustion engine;

evaluating said ignition status to determine said request to shutdown the internal combustion engine; and

adjusting a throttle with a computer controller for a substantial termination of an intake charge of air through an intake manifold to an intake port of the internal combustion engine if said ignition status indicates said request to shutdown the internal combustion engine.

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20. (Amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein said predetermined period of time is less than about twenty seconds.

#### REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on December 5, 2001, wherein Claims 1-21 were rejected. Claims 1-21 remain pending.

#### Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §112

On page 2 of the Office Action, Claim 20 was rejected as being indefinite. Claim 20 has been amended to remove the clarity rejections.

#### Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C § 102 (b), as being anticipated by Gospodar. Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 11 to include a computer controller. Gospodar is completely silent with respect to a computer controller. Gospodar does not teach or suggest the present claimed invention.

#### Conclusion

The entire Office Action dated September 30, 2002 has been carefully reviewed, and this response is submitted as being fully responsive thereto. In view of the preceding remarks,